

Vermont Public Library Annual Report – 2019  
Narrative Responses

What successes have you had this year?

What's new at your library?

(Note – Library's reporting periods differ based on their fiscal calendars)

**Abbott Memorial (Pomfret)**

Successes

- We had a great range of well attended programs for adults this year which included Moth-style storytelling, invasive plants, composting, meditation, hiking the AT, trekking the El Camino, and 'love your library'.

What's New

- Our beloved town elementary school is currently closed, and the children now attend school in the next town. We are continuing to hold a children's book group at the different school.

**Ainsworth Public (Williamstown)**

Successes

- Our full-time librarian was recognized as a full time town employee and therefore entitled to and received town employee benefits. Increase in partnering with our elementary school (WES). We started a winter reading challenge that went very well last year and seems to be going well presently.

What's New

- We have incorporated an Adopt an Author Program which is going very well.
- We are coordinating with the local school to have a Dorothy's List group that meets at the library once a month. Our Trustees are more involved with our town Selectboard and we are even a monthly item on their agenda now to share positives as well as challenges regarding the library.

**Albany Town**

Successes

- 2018 marked a steady growth in the vibrancy of our library, with increased library programming and patronage. It also was the year that we joined forces with the Craftsbury Public Library to form a collaborative catalog, which started the process of updating and electronically cataloging our collection. The library grew in serving as a community space for meetings and discussions, and we generally broadened the definition of what is possible and how the library might serve the Albany community.

What's New

- In 2018 we installed a new rug, painted the walls, got an infusion of new children's books through the Rural Libraries CLiF grant, hosted several musical, storytelling, and natural science events, exhibited local art, and started a winter play space.

**Alburg Public**

Successes

- Programming is still really popular here. Some of the most well attended programs are the usual, book & Film Night. This year we did the PBS online short film festival screening. It was a 3 night program but it was tons of fun! Our handcrafter group has been revived and very

successful! CVOEO comes out every year for the past 5 years to the library and sets up an income tax help day to help elderly and low-income families file taxes (huge success)!

#### What's New

- Trying to set up "noisy" hours in the library for after school hours. We are super busy after 3pm and it gets loud so we are trying to establish quiet time hours and not so quiet time.

#### **Aldrich Public (Barre)**

##### Successes

- We leveraged federal grant funding to solicit additional donations, and used the money to completely renovate the Katherine Paterson Children's Library and Milne Community Meeting Room, adding an additional parenting room to the floor plan as well.
- Additionally, we have worked to meet monthly with church leaders, the Barre Fire Department, the Good Samaritan staff and other community services to craft and keep updated a community resources calendar that can be shared with the public for real time information.

#### What's New

- Aldrich has standardized hours throughout the week - we are now open Monday through Friday from 11 to 7.
- Additionally, we now have Sunday hours available. We are open from noon to 4pm Sundays at our East Barre location. This is one of the most popular times for patrons to visit this small local library.

#### **Alice M. Ward Memorial (Canaan)**

##### Successes

- LEGO League Robotics, wifi, copying and faxing, public computer use.

#### What's New

- LEGO Robotics equipment

#### **Arvin A. Brown Public (Richford)**

##### Successes

- The Arvin A Brown Public Library continued to expand its partnership with community organizations. The library sponsored programs with Kurt Valenta, educator and naturalist, at the Richford's kindergarten, preschool and a local daycare. We plan to continue this partnership to bring exciting nature/science programs to community children.
- The library provided snacks, stories and crafts for children at the Richford Farmers Market held over the summer. We also held a story time at the Northern Tier Center for Health's (NOTCH) weekly community summer dinner. The library once again created/sponsored children's programming for the NOTCH's free 6 week long summer day camp. The now annual Elves Workshop was held at the library in conjunction with Santa's Pancake Breakfast for children at the Richford Firehouse. Children and caregivers could follow a holiday StoryWalk® from the firehouse to the library. Activities at the library included making holiday ornaments, a movie, free books to choose from and of course popcorn and hot chocolate for refreshments.

#### What's New

- New at the library in 2018 are supplies and equipment for preschooler teachers, daycare providers, and parents to create educational make and take items at the library.

#### **Bailey Memorial (Clarendon)**

##### Successes

- Increase in patronage by children, especially elementary school age;
- Increased participation in the summer reading program;
- Growth in funding through the year round "books, etc. sale".

#### What's New

- Snowshoes available for patrons to borrow; annual December visit to library by Santa and spring Easter egg hunt available to public. Booth and display at Clarendon Townwide Yard sale the last Saturday in July.

### **Barnet Public**

#### Successes

- This year our most successful program has been our consistent delivery service to our Senior Meal Site. It has taken about a year for the program to really gain momentum at the meal site. This year we have developed a very compatible relationship with many of the patrons there who trust us enough to finally ask for titles and tell us their interests and not just take what we offer. The circulation at meals isn't included in our tallies because the books get passed around, but it is, without a doubt finally becoming successful.

#### What's New

- 2018 was the year we really tried to promote local author talks. While the attendance wasn't huge, it was really nice to have intimate conversations with these authors. It made the audience ages more diverse as younger people felt more comfortable talking.

### **Barton Public**

#### What's New

- Our seed library volunteers have now started a community garden behind the library. They are hosting many events and are now calling it a "Giving Garden".

### **Benson Public**

#### Successes

- Our reading group is still going strong. We have had a few new members. We have received a lot of help from Orwell Free Library and Fair Haven Public Library with getting our books.

#### What's New

- This year we have combined a bake sale with our annual book sale. It was a big success. We also had our first annual Cookies with Santa, We had a great turn out.

### **Bent Northrup Memorial (Fairfield)**

#### Successes

- We have done a significant amount of intentional community engagement in the past year, and have created a five year strategic plan based on this. We have also continued the difficult work of creating an investment policy (in relation to our endowment) and a financial policy to help guide the board members in their roles as financial stewards.

#### What's New

- Have created new goals through our strategic plan and are currently focusing on how we will achieve them. We are continuing to provide services that are meeting community needs and are working on better aligning others in order to meet new needs that have been identified.

### **Bixby Memorial (Vergennes)**

#### Successes

- Bixby Memorial Visits to the Bixby Library increased 37%. 1,119 residents registered for new library cards, which is a 24% increase. Borrowing increased 46%. Facebook followers increased steadily from 668 to 751 and our Annual Gala brought in more than \$10,000 over our budgeted goal.
- Program highlights include children's author Tui T. Sutherland presenting to a packed crowd of 142 children and adults and the Bixby sponsoring a Lego competition in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes. We hosted our 1st Cat Cafe in partnership with Homeward Bound. Over 130 people attended and 3 of the 4 cats were adopted that day.

#### What's New

- In 2018-2019 our Adult Services Librarian Laksamee Cave was hired. We continued work with the Daughters of the American Revolution on preserving some of our local historic documents. 9 local artists were showcased in our newly renovated Community Room. The Library collaborated with Age Well to offer Tai Chi in our space and the 1st ever Cat Cafe was cohosted with Homeward Bound with great success.

### **Blake Memorial (Corinth)**

#### Successes

- We had a major overhaul of our computers, with upgraded models and access to increased internet speeds. We also completed phase 1 of our renovation project and expanded our parking lot and installed heat pumps to more efficiently heat and cool the building. We also installed a permanent art exhibit of paintings by local author, Gail Gibbons, with a display of her books that each painting corresponds to.

#### What's New

- was a big year for planning a major renovation of the building. We have completed phase 1 and are now working on phase 2, which includes updating the facility and installing ADA-accessibility features, taking place in early 2020. We also had a change in library Director from Emily Heidenreich to Christiane Carroll.

### **Brainerd Memorial (North Danville)**

#### Successes

- Our fundraising efforts were very successful this year. We started a weekly cribbage night in Sept. and have had an average of 15 players each week which brings in a donation of \$25.00 (average). We were able to repay our investment in tables, cards and cribbage boards in 6 weeks.
- Our Story Time on Sat. mornings is continuing to be well attended.

#### What's New

- Weekly cribbage nights.
- Halloween party at the library.

### **Brandon Free Public**

#### Successes

- 2018 was right in the middle of the large Segment 6 project that reshaped Route 7 through Brandon. As a result of this project, we saw our door count decrease significantly, as people either couldn't get to the library, or once they got here they couldn't park (we lost our parking lot for most of the year). Despite this hurdle, people still made their way to the library for programming and we did a lot more outreach to our community.

#### What's New

- There wasn't much new happening at BFPL in 2018. We were just trying to tread water long enough to get through the major reconstruction project in town that took away our parking lot, access to the library and our lawn for the entirety of the year.

### **Brookfield Free Public**

#### Successes

- We ran several successful programs this year, including offering after school knitting classes to elementary students. The traveling Fairbanks museum observatory was popular, as was our "deconstruction" event, where kids and their parents took apart all sorts of appliances.

#### What's New

- Monthly delivery of books and materials to childcare providers is a new initiative for us. The library collaborated with RiseVt for a program on health and exercise, and this was new for us as well.

### **Brooks Memorial (Brattleboro)**

#### Successes

- Our requests to use our spaces, for programs, meetings and workspace have increased tremendously.
- The community truly relies upon the library as its community center and has come to think of us first when looking for a venue or suggesting a program and requesting resources.
- Brattleboro resident, Ann Braden, author of *The Benefits of Being an Octopus*, participated in a community-wide read of her book and subsequent discussions.
- A special edition of the *New York Times for Kids* this year featured observations from a fourth grade class at Brattleboro's Green Street School. One perceptive 11 year old student wrote: "People should spend more time in the Brattleboro town library. It is a peaceful place and not crowded. There are a wide variety of books (like graphic novels, which I like). It really is the best place in town." We agree!

#### What's New

- Snowshoes! And nature backpacks with binoculars and field guides.
- Kanopy, which has proven to be popular beyond our expectations, and Acorn TV and RB Digital licenses which have been well received.
- We worked with the local drop-in center to allow those who receive mail there to use that as proof of address to register for a temporary card. We also increased the number of items available for loan to patrons with temporary cards.

### **Brownell (Essex Junction)**

#### Successes

- We've seen a great impact from our local Howard Center social worker outreach program that has reduced people in crisis, having incidents in our building.

#### What's New

- iPad OPAC stations were added and regularly used. We've added a circulating board game collection as well as other a larger collection of "library of things" to add to recreational entertainment options for patrons.

### **Burnham Memorial (Colchester)**

#### What's New

- Thanks to a donation to our Friends group the lower level of our neighboring Meeting House was renovated. This provides us with exciting new program space.

### **Butterfield (Westminster)**

#### What's New

- We are now on Facebook. Westminster Institute & Butterfield Library. We now have all the Adult books, Young Adult and about 1/4 of the Linda B. Fawcett Juvenile books bar coded.
- 6,000 books so far

### **Cabot Public**

#### Successes

- We were bequeathed some funds this past year which will allow us to build new shelving in one of our library rooms and will match the shelving in the main library.

#### What's New

- Read to Me, our new program that provides free books to every child in Cabot for the first 3 years of their life, was launched in July of this year. The first year is being funded by donations made in memory of a Cabot resident who passed away this past year. We are also asking Cabot residents if they would like to sponsor a child for a year with a \$30 donation.

### **Calef Memorial (Washington)**

#### Successes

- The library has had better success with reaching out to our community. We have had a booth at the Washington Field day, as well as working with the school librarian. Both of which has gotten us better acquainted with the people of Washington and with the children.

#### What's New

- We have gotten new computers, two new for the patrons and one new one for the librarian. These computers are a big draw for the younger age patrons as well as the older patrons. We have also begun to work with a local childcare and open an hour early on Mondays, (when the weather is warmer) to read to the children and also let them have some play time.

### **Carpenter Carse (Hinesburg)**

#### Successes

- Delighted to have a celebration of our bike lending program that was a fun, safety filled day celebrating cycling (and of cycling safety).

### **Castleton Free**

#### Successes

- We (the two part-time librarians) have been very happy about the programs we've been able to provide in spite of limiting hours. Much of this has been made possible through great collaborations. The international students at Castleton U. put together a lunch series to share their home cultures with community members, which led to friendships, library volunteers, & a wonderful new Tibetan work-study student at the library.
- The Rabbi at the nearby synagogue helped us with an inclusive Hanukkah celebration to bridge understanding in the season of Light.
- Local science teachers helped us launch the first in a series of monthly winter family programs with "Family Chemistry Night."
- We've had a fabulous response to VT Humanities Programs (Speakers Bureau & VT Reads).

- And who could forget the DCF Book Group "Taco Tuesday" event at the local pizza place, when the sky opened up with a driving downpour, right in the midst of our reviews? YA bliss: excitement, wet pizza, no books ruined (thank goodness for those big umbrellas).

#### What's New

- In this FY our "non-traditional" lending collection (snowshoes, bikes & helmets, and a wide array of museum & attraction passes) really took off. As always, it's exciting to be a librarian participating in creative collaborations that provide access to "the good life" for everyone.
- What's New
- More selfishly, I'm loving our new storage shed (which looks like an adorable cottage) - we now have a place for all of our garden paraphernalia (and many ideas for Library Garden Club), extra chairs, holiday decorations, etc. We finally got lighting in our tree to illuminate the parking area - one more tiny step toward improving accessibility! And we have new industrial-style shelving to accommodate Maker Program supplies, Playgroup toys, and those endless donations of useful stuff.

### **Cavendish Fletcher Community**

#### Successes

- We replaced the library lighting with more energy efficient LED lights. We are in the midst of reorganizing our library to better use our space, including a new, smaller circulation desk.

#### What's New

- We had a patron incident which led us to change our hours for better security. This situation is still in flux, and hours will probably be modified before the next school year.

### **Charlotte**

#### Successes

- Library Expansion Project: The start of fundraising and community support plans for the new addition.
- Mental Health Conversations: A series of programs to de-stigmatize mental health issues and help people realize libraries are resources for accurate and useful information to seek help. Funded by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine--New England Region.
- Program Partnership with Orchard Road Computers: A collaboration with local computer consultant to provide introductory sessions for Mac & PC users.
- Zooniverse for Kids: An introduction to citizen science, learning how to classify and record animals as part of the "Zooniverse" team, an online site for research collaboration.
- Event Bin Loan Program: A grant-based program to loan out sets of compost, trash & recycle bins for community events. A collaborative project with the Charlotte Senior Center
- Men's Book Group: An informal once-a-month gathering, a book group for men, to address issues raised in books chosen by participants.
- Seed Library Programs: A menu of programs covering everything from selecting seeds and garden planning to pest management and composting. Presented in collaboration with the Charlotte Grange and Transition Town Charlotte.
- Community Soup Suppers: A series of shared suppers featuring a notable speaker from our community. Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Congregational Church, UCC.
- Civility Cafe: A facilitated discussion about the history, meaning and need for civility in our modern world. Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Congregational Church, UCC and the Rokeby Museum.

- "Walking Each Other Home" Book Discussion: A 4-part conversation about death and dying, using Ram Dass's book as guidepost.
- Frog Hollow Collaboration: A grant-funded project involving in-depth discussion and hands-on workshop with artist from art center.
- Bake for Good: A collaboration with the Charlotte Senior Center to make, bake and donate delicious rolls & bread to Senior Center and Charlotte Food Shelf. Ages 9 and above. Sponsored by King Arthur Flour.
- Water Series: A 3-part program on wells, wastewater and stormwater. Co-sponsored by Ahead of the Storm and Vermont Department of Health.
- Great Decisions: A foreign policy discussion series led by volunteers; FY2019 was its fourth year.

#### What's New

- Increased collaboration: thanks to new programs linked to community, gardens and technology, we've created additional opportunities with groups and individuals in our town. In addition, we've also forged new partnerships with the Howard Center, the Vermont Department of Health, Climate Change Conversations in Libraries (through UMass Amherst), and Frog Hollow Craft Center.
- Expansion project: FY 2019 saw first stages of library addition and renovation.
- Staff Tech Training: A more deliberate effort to keep staff up-to-date with Koha upgrades and other key tech tasks.
- Event Bin Loan Program: see above
- Men's Book Group: see above

#### **Chelsea Public**

##### Successes

- Our programming goals were successful in 2018. We held more programs for adults and teens, as well as offered a fun summer reading program for all ages.

##### What's New

- The Friends of Chelsea Public Library have been very active in planning programs and events for the community. They planned a Harry Potter Mystery Dinner in 2018 which was well attended.

#### **Chittenden Public**

##### Successes

- Created a comprehensive Librarian Handbook to serve as a manual with instructions for the operations of the library
- Hosted a three-month workshop on living a creative life that has been leading to more arts and crafts nights at the library and pulling in new patrons
- A successful and interactive summer reading program led by our new Librarian Assistant that brought in more children than ever before
- Programs geared specifically to the Seniors in our community

##### What's New

- Board approved and hired a new Librarian Assistant position
- We now are open one more day a week and also have staff on all shifts, rather than a volunteer

#### **Cobleigh Public (Lyndon)**

##### Successes

- The library partnered with the Promise Community Grant and All Things Lyndon with Katie Powers to bring resources to the community and family fun events. The events were held at the

Farmer's Market on Friday afternoons and early evenings. Because of the grant we had funding to offer gift certificates for the farm fresh food at the market. We had fabulous turn outs. This was a win for the market and for the families. The library was also able to purchase kits to lend to families related to STEM and outside activities after the grant period finished.

### **Cornwall Free Public**

#### Successes

- We have started opening the library on Saturday mornings for about the last year. We have had patrons use the library on Saturdays.
- We continue to have a successful book sale in November of each year. This aids our ability to purchase more materials for the library.

#### What's New

- We are just in the beginning stages of setting up Web Opac for our library through our software company ResourceMate. We hope to have this completely operational in the next 6 months.

### **Craftsbury Public**

#### Successes

- The Craftsbury Library led a group of Northeast Kingdom librarians to look into the topic of Diversity in Children's Literature through the lens of the Northeast Kingdom. Our corner of Vermont is very rural, less ethnically diverse than much of the state, and has some serious socio-economic diversity. Providing diversity in literature is hugely important for our service areas, but finding the connection can be difficult. The group heard from experts in the field, compiled a list of topical titles, and selected books from the list for inclusion in each collection. This project was grant funded by the Northeast Kingdom Fund.
- We launched a new fundraiser for the library: a librarian led tour of Ireland. The inaugural trip was financially successful and wildly fun, and it promises to be an oft repeated fundraiser.

#### What's New

- The Craftsbury and Albany libraries came together to bring resource sharing to the next level. Craftsbury incorporated the smaller Albany library collection in our catalog, shared patrons and services, and have opened both libraries and collections to both user groups. Our tag line of "Increasing access while reducing costs" says it all.
- Craftsbury was finally able to join the interlibrary loan courier system in 2018 which made a big difference in loan requests, costs, and time dedicated to processing interlibrary loans. We are delighted to be a fully functional part of the Vermont ILL system!

### **Cutler Memorial (Plainfield)**

#### Successes

- We completed the design phase of our expansion plan, and are aware of expenses we should plan for outside of the actual construction of the building addition and expanded parking. We were pleased to see our ILL lending rate almost double, and the ratio go to almost 2:1 (lend versus borrow), as it shows we're meeting patron expectations better and serving the larger library community more. Our partnership with the town, accessing municipal grant funds from the Vermont Community Development Program, was a successful first.

#### What's New

- We have added to our collection of objects that circulate; we have a microscope and cookie cutters, a pumpkin carving kit, a flower pressing kit. This is in addition to bins/kits for jewelry making, bicycle repair, wood burning, paper arts, needle & thread, fiber arts, paint & ink, media-

making, robotics, rug hooking, a digital telescope, e-readers and an mp3 player. The library director has a retirement match benefit (.50 an hour) and is being compensated \$1.50 an hour in lieu of being provided with a health insurance policy.

### **Dailey Memorial (Derby)**

#### Successes

- Through the use of several grants and money left over from our Capital Campaign our library was able to construct a solar-powered gazebo on our South Lawn. This structure was designed by members of our Building Committee as a means to decrease our electric bill while also creating a comfortable outdoor space for groups to meet, individuals to read or relax, and children's programs to take place.

#### What's New

- A generous donation has allowed us to purchase 5 Lego Education Simple and Powered Machine kits for school-aged children, as well as one STEAM Park Lego kit for preschoolers. We hosted several programs to familiarize the kids with the kits and their capabilities, and now the kits are available for in-library use for groups and individuals.

### **Dorothy Alling Memorial (Williston)**

#### Successes

- The library has had great success with several programs this year:
  - A passive program with mosaic posters: We purchased large format letter-coded posters and the corresponding colored stickers. Like a paint-by-number picture, library patrons in our youth area apply the stickers over a two week period until the subject of the picture is finally revealed. We have done several mosaic posters now, with each poster generating lots of excitement.
  - Ukulele Jam: We partnered with the music teacher at our local school who brought ukuleles to the library and taught the basics of playing the instrument, after which participants all jammed together. We held several sessions of Ukulele Jam over the course of the year, and all were well attended by patrons of all ages.
  - Summer Reading Program Kick-off: Our annual kick-off for the Summer Reading Program is our Pet Parade. This year we were thrilled to have the 501st New England Garrison and Rebel Legion join our parade. Everyone loved having their favorite Star Wars characters joining in to celebrate A Universe of Stories! Also on hand was the VINS mobile planetarium, which was well-attended by adults and youngsters alike.
  - Attendance at adult programs increased 30% over last fiscal year while the number of programs increased 8%. We attribute this to exciting offerings such local history topics, collaborative programs with the Green Mountain Audubon Center, and a successful writing series.

#### What's New

- This year the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library made an effort to engage more with the young adult age group. The high school for our community is not located in our town so we often have trouble reaching those patrons. Our Youth Services librarian attended an event at the high school promoting area libraries, publicizing our programs and services and encouraging library card sign ups. Our message was well-received, and although we don't have any hard statistics to tout, we feel that we successfully got our message out. We plan to connect and partner with the high school on future events.

### **Essex Free**

#### Successes

- We had a very successful summer reading program, and we have instituted more adult programming throughout the year. Our programs and attendance continue to grow.

#### What's New

- We are offering more adult programming and have begun to screen films for public viewing throughout the year. New staff has brought on new energy and new ideas.

### **Fair Haven Free**

#### Successes

- This year Fair Haven Free Library planned two Story Walks through the local town park which is across the street from the library. One of our library trustees spearheaded this project. He tried to involve local groups such as the Fair Haven High School Art Class, the Friends of the Library and other community members to participate in the planning and the set-up of our Story Walks. Local businesses donated materials We designed a scavenger hunt sheet to go with the stories which could be picked up in the library or at the Thursday evening Concert on the Green. Each Story Walk remained in the park for two weeks and was dedicated to a person who supported literacy in our community. This project was our greatest success of the year.

#### What's New

- Fair Haven Free New at the library this year, the Friends of the Library began offering monthly book sales in the basement of the library. These sales were open a Monday evening and a Saturday morning each month. The sales have become very popular with the public and very profitable for the Friends. We have also noticed that our ongoing mini book sale profits have increased since the start of the basement book sales.

### **Fairfax Community**

#### Successes

- The Fairfax Community Library successfully changed librarians when the public librarian accepted a position at another Vermont library. An interim librarian was hired in August and then accepted the permanent position as of December, 2018.

#### What's New

- After attending the New England Library Conference and collecting materials there, library staff set up a Citizen Corner in the library with materials and resources for people who would like to become U.S. citizens. Our 6 new STEM Kits, funded by 2 donations, started circulating! Getting them set up was a complex process. The kits included: Telescope, Microscope, Jewelry Making Tools, Bloxels, and 2 early learning kits for caregivers and children to do together from the VT Center for the Book's Mother Goose Program. The themes are Number Patterns and Same & Different which dovetail with VT Early Learning Initiative goals.
- We had lots of great maker activities to go along with our music theme this summer. We made different types of musical instruments weekly. We also had a musical chairs tournament, a community coffee house, and a concert on the green. The concert is being put on by David Rosane and the Zookeepers, who went around the state this summer on a library benefit tour to raise awareness of the role and importance of rural libraries.

### **Fairlee Public**

#### Successes

- Our Summer Reading Program continues to grow each summer with more children signing up as well as more children attending programs. For the first time in many years, the Fairlee Public Library bought in a speaker from the Vermont Humanities Council's Speaker Bureau.

#### What's New

- Beginning this year we have quite the after school crowd ranging in grades 2-6. They are able to walk here after school. There has been many positive comments made from patrons about how nice it is to see that number from that age group using the library. We hope to add more computers for their use as well as for other patrons to use during our busier times of the day.

### **George Peabody (Thetford)**

#### Successes

- The Penny Carnival celebrated its 23rd anniversary in August drawing an enthusiastic crowd of families with their pennies.

### **Georgia Public**

#### Successes

- Bridget and Sara were able to attend the VLA, ASRL and NELA conferences held in Burlington, VT this year. Bridget also attended the Red Clover Conference in Barre.
- Bridget, the Director completed her Certificate of Public Librarianship. Bridget was asked to Chair the Inclusion committee of the VLA and join the ABLE Library advisory council in 2020.
- We successfully migrated to KOHA from Library World and experienced a 124% increase in ILL usage (average of sent and rec'd increases).
- Georgia Public Library is enjoying a positive & collaborative relationship with our new town Administrator, Amber Baker and the Selectboard chaired by Matt Crawford. Our Trustees are invaluable to good standing and progress.
- We continue to pursue plans for an ADA renovation.
- We passed a Narcan policy.
- Our own Gary Deziel led a training on accounting literacy and best practice for libraries for the VT Department of Libraries as part of the Library Administration CPE requirement. A similar training was rolled out to Franklin county librarians as a potential cohort model.

#### What's New

- We are looking forward to a refocused reinvigorated Friends group, led by Jessica Fike.
- KOHA is new, increasing patrons' access to materials from a cohort of 20 statewide libraries, allowing patrons independence in renewing items and greater functionality in our OPAC.

### **Gilbert Hart (Wallingford)**

#### Successes

- We have completely updated all collections with extensive weeding and new acquisitions. A new assistant librarian filled a vacancy and there was a smooth transition thanks in part to a paid summer intern. The increase in interlibrary loans this year was thanks to the CLOVER system and courier deliveries.

#### What's New

- Changes in furniture and arrangements, a new chair of the board of trustees, and an increase in materials for middle grade readers and young adults.

### **Glover Public**

#### Successes

- We have really stepped up the efforts to bring books to our local nursing home. It started with bringing books to one person on a weekly basis, and now it is up to 4 deliveries. I always stop to chat with each individual, and give even more time with one of our long time patrons who is there permanently now. It is interesting that the residents pass the books around, and let others know about this service. Being a small, rural library this is one of things we are able to do well - making connections and now even to our nursing home residents.

### **Goodrich Memorial (Newport)**

#### Successes

- For the year 2018, we had a really successful community event based around Newport City's Centennial Celebration. We partnered with many local businesses and entities to make this event happen which was participated in by many community members.

### **Grafton Public**

#### Successes

- We had a wonderful summer reading program. We teamed up with the local elementary school during their summer school program and offered all our library programming on-site at the school. This allowed us to have much greater access to families in our area during the summer.
- We also continue to host a very active book group for adults and on-going language study groups.

#### What's New

- We purchased new office furniture through the Department of Corrections, making our circulation area much more accessible for both staff and patrons.
- We also replaced aging oil tanks and a rusting water heater.

### **Grand Isle Free**

#### Successes

- This year we started a successful adult Writer's Group, meets twice a month. For winter months we started an adult Game Night, only a few showed up, Scrabble was the favorite game.

#### What's New

- We bought book trucks to help with the overcrowding of the shelves.

### **Greensboro Free**

#### Successes

- To take the chill out of winter, we held a chili dinner with a midwinter variety show featuring children in dance, drama and singing. It was a community dinner with chili, cole slaw, cornbread and cookies contributed by volunteers, trustees and staff as well as two local businesses. The cost was a donation of \$8 for adults and \$3 for children. Approximately 60 adults and 10 children came and \$812 was made.

#### What's New

- Under the tutelage of a local theater person, a home school theater group was formed and learned stage movement, projection enunciation, what is a theatre, creating a character, and improvisation/how to tell a story over the course of 3 months of weekly sessions at the GFL. In conclusion the group performed their renditions of "The Three Little Pigs" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" for a local daycare, adult care center, and library benefit dinner.

### **Groton Free Public**

#### Successes

- 2018 marked a year of transition for the Groton Free Public Library. We had a change in leadership. Success this year was measured in how well the change over went, the welcoming patrons who helped me settle into the new job, the volunteers who helped keep the Library moving forward while I learned the ropes, and the amazing trustees who took a leap of faith in a Librarian new to the field!

#### What's New

- See above!

### **Guilford Free**

#### Successes

- The first project of the Friends of the Library was to build and place a new Little Free Library in Algiers. It has been well used.
- Successes
- Another new project of the Friends is a Storytime for Grown-ups, called Back Roads Stories. Attended by about 30 people! We plan to do this program several times a year.
- Successes
- Guilford Free University, a Learning Exchange, had its first event in June, after a year's planning. This was sponsored by the library and spearheaded by one of our trustees. Classes such as knife sharpening, gluten-free baking, bicycle and small engine maintenance, dancing, how to download an ebook (and about 20 more) were attended by about 30 adults and 20 children on a Sunday afternoon in June.

#### What's New

- We've refinishing the adult reading room...new paint, refinishing the beautiful wooden floor, new bookshelves.
- We've shared our vision of an expanded library with the selectboard, and they will be applying for the necessary grants to supplement the bequests that have been left to us.

### **H. F. Brigham Free (Bakersfield)**

#### Successes

- We were able to offer kids summer hands on programs in 2018. We finally made the 'live' jump to Koha in November of 2018.

#### What's New

- My entire board of Trustees is new!

### **Hancock Free Public**

#### Successes

- STEM programs have been started. We have held workshops for art. An adult book group, the Valley Readers continues to meet monthly. We began a youth summer book club.

#### What's New

- STEM programs have been started. We have held workshops in the arts. We began a youth summer book club.

### **Hartford**

#### Successes

- One of the most rewarding and successful programs at our library this year was the summer lunch program. We worked with the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ to provide

lunches to Hartford families through the Hartford Community Coalition's "Take a Bite out of Hunger" program.

- School-aged children and their families were able to come to the library every weekday to pick up healthy lunches or share the meals here at the library with other families. Many families took advantage of this and created a real community center atmosphere at the library.

### **Hartland Public**

#### Successes

- Started popular ukulele club and lend ukuleles. Local nursery school visits library every month for storytime. New book discussion group is popular.

#### What's New

- Started offering Kanopy video streaming service.

### **Haskell Free (Derby Line)**

#### Successes

- 2019 was a period of transition for the Haskell Free Library, notable for the turnover in staff as well as the board of trustees. However, we are fortunate to have a new team of energetic and motivated individuals, each with something different and exciting to bring to the table.
- The circulation of materials was quite strong this past year, in fact the highest circulation in the last few years. This was true for all types of materials, in print and digital, for all age groups, and in both English and French.
- The winter of 2019 marked the first stage of a multi-year weeding project, working towards building a manageable-sized collection that is smaller than the current one, but hopefully more heavily used.

#### What's New

- Much of this past year has been spent re-evaluating the role of the Haskell Free Library within its community, reflecting on the needs of the community, and planning new programs and services in order to meet these needs. The librarian and the board of trustees have begun working on a new strategic plan which will focus on community integration and collaboration.
- The Haskell Free Library continues to upgrade the computers and other equipment in order to keep up with the evolving digital needs of our patrons. This year we replaced three public computers, as well as the front desk computer and all of the printers. We upgraded the phone system and the internet connection, and we added an electronic guest book at our entrance. In 2020 we plan to upgrade the staff computers, the remaining public computer, and the Wi-Fi network.

### **Highgate Public**

#### Successes

- We have seen an increase in participation in programs, the gardening program grew, and there is growing support from taxpayers for the building of a new library.
- Our Trustees have been advocating for a new heating system since I started here (almost 7 years ago). After many hours of research and presentations, our Select Board has approved funds to move ahead with replacing our outdated, inefficient, and constantly in need of repair furnaces with heat pumps!

### **Huntington Public**

#### What's New

- The Friends of the Huntington Public Library has been formed and established as a non-profit in the past year! It is so exciting to have a group that is filled with enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and dedication!

### **Ilseley Public (Middelbury)**

#### Successes

- In 2019 we requested and received funding for a new full-time position, an Adult Services and Circulation librarian that will focus on adult programs, outreach, and social media/marketing. We also received a grant from our local Rotary Club to expand our book discussion program. Our summer reading program, which includes adults, saw increased participation. We added new soft seating to our lobby, in an effort to create a more comfortable space that will encourage patrons to socialize and linger. The library partnered with the Hannaford Career Center to sponsor a First Robotics Team for elementary school students. The library board of trustees revised and amended their bylaws.

#### What's New

- Ilseley Public Library now keeps Narcan in our First Aid Kit; staff have been trained on how to identify potential overdoses and administer Narcan in the case of an emergency. We began the planning process to transition from our boiler/fuel oil heat delivery system to a heat pump/electric heat delivery system. We are preparing for major construction downtown, including the closure of Main Street for ten weeks in the summer of 2020, which will impact the library along with all downtown businesses.

### **Island Pond Public**

#### Successes

- The continued success of our Early Literacy programs (Birth to Five) and our tweens and teens participation in the Summer Read program has brought us more attention, more donations and the continuation of increased Funding.

#### What's New

- Our Summer Read Program, "Libraries Rock!", brought more participants, circulated more materials and had us giving away more T-shirts (with Island Pond Public Library silk-screened on the back) especially to the Teens and Moms and Dads.

### **J. G. McCullough Free (North Bennington)**

#### Successes

- This past year was another benchmark, record- setting year for the McCullough Library. Our marketing, communication and outreach efforts continue to yield positive results for this institution, both in terms of circulation, door traffic and participation in public programs AND in terms of boosting our fundraising and taxpayer sponsorship efforts. A huge emergency boiler replacement project was needed and completed late in 2019. This huge project was completely donor and grant funded.

#### What's New

- Interlibrary Loan and electronic borrowing have become an increasingly central part of our service to the community. The library has become an active participant in community-led development efforts, and much work has been done on the building, both on the exterior (new roadside sign, different landscaping, wifi picnic table, cleaning of marble foundation) and within (total replacement of furnace, hot water boiler, oil tank and chimney liner). We also welcomed a new Children's Librarian to our staff.

## **Jamaica Memorial**

### Successes

- We continuously have great success with our Summer Library Camp. We always have a great turn out of kids and such a fun week of games, activities, movies, and performers!
- We also always get visitors from our neighboring elementary school during the school year for story time and book check out.
- We had a huge turnout for our annual Halloween trick or treat book giveaway as usual. We see over 150+ children! They each get to take home a book and of course, candy!
- We had an amazing Raffle Basket fundraiser for our Jamaica's' Old Home Day. We raised over \$235!

### What's New

- Starting in 2020 we will be starting an afterschool program one day a week in collaboration with our local elementary school. I will look forward to reporting back next here on how it did!
- We are also beginning to work on a lighting project in our basement to add more lighting to our Book Sale for our patrons. We are always looking for new ways to improve our buildings accessibility to our community.

## **Jaquith Public (Marshfield)**

### Successes

- We were selected, along with seven libraries from around the United States to participate in the Rural Library Service & Social Wellbeing study. Researchers selected the Jaquith Library as a case-study location after conducting a national data study of community health and library performance and interviewing library director Susan Green.
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services is funding the three-year Rural Library Service & Social Wellbeing project across the nation, with communities chosen in Iowa, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Wisconsin, and Vermont. The project was initiated and is led by the Southern Tier Library System, a cooperative serving predominantly rural community libraries in western New York.
- “As centers of learning and catalysts of community change, libraries and museums connect people with programs, services, collections, information, and new ideas in the arts, sciences, and humanities. They serve as vital spaces where people can connect with each other,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “IMLS is proud to support their work through our grant making as they inform and inspire all in their communities.”

### What's New

- We collaborated with the Marshfield Historical Society to write a grant for a Marshfield Story Project and the IMLS granted us the requested \$ 41,000. The Marshfield Story Project will bring together our community-young, older and in between- to preserve Marshfield's community memory through intergenerational dialog, oral history, video interviews and creating a digital archive. We have done much of the foot work to get the project going: people have been hired, equipment purchased, practice interviews started, and informational sessions and workshops have taken place.

## **Jericho Town**

### Successes

- Jericho Town Library increased its open hours from 21 to 25 hours per week, as well as increased access to its Seed Library through community outreach and programming.

#### What's New

- Jericho Town Library renovated its Intergenerational Programming Space, added new, additional shelving, and redesigned the layout of its children's & YA areas, including mobile and flexible space options. The redesign of the Intergenerational Programming Space has made a tremendous positive shift in our programming and use of the space as a whole.

#### **Jeudevine Memorial (Hardwick)**

##### Successes

- In April 2019 we launched our Jeudevine Expansion Project. We spent much of FY2017-2018 and fall and winter of FY2019 putting together a building plan, a campaign committee and an events committee. We had our kick-off event in April and then started having a different fundraising event each month. We had a wonderful quilt donated for a raffle.

##### What's New

- Our Trustee, Kathleen Sampson coordinated a great fundraiser for our expansion project: she got a large plastic jug into each classroom of the Hardwick Elementary School. Kids brought in spare change: "Coins for the Jeudevine." They raised \$519 in total. The winning class was Ms. Richard's second grade which raised \$226.08! They got pizza, lemonade, cookies and a movie at the library which was really fun!

#### **Jones Memorial (Orleans)**

##### Successes

- More satisfied/happy adults. Achieved by responding to their likes, wants and needs.

##### What's New

- Our collection of President's biographies. Rebuilt the children's board book collection. Started an adult book discussion group. Have a genealogy lab with a computer and local and Vermont resources. Helping to provide a correctional facility for men with books.

#### **Joslin Memorial (Waitsfield)**

##### Successes

- I began as Library Director in late August, so it has only been a few months. much of my time thus far has been acclimating to the new position, which has been a really fun & rewarding experience.

##### What's New

- Joslin Memorial last winter, our Library underwent a significant renovation. We now have an expansive children's area, a meeting room, a gas fireplace, new chairs, & new computers. it has been exciting working on ways to promote what our Library now has to offer. the possibilities are endless!

#### **Kellogg Hubbard (Montpelier)**

##### Successes

- We had a very successful Drag Queen Story Time with local drag queens, Emoji Nightmare and Nikki Champagne. We had over 135 parents, children and community members attend, and received positive local media coverage.

##### What's New

- With the retirement of our Executive Director, we took the opportunity to restructure and streamline our administration. We now have a co-directorship; reducing administration from

2.75 FTEs to 2 FTEs. We increased staff hours equally. The changes in structure gave our staff the opportunity to try out new roles at the Library and in some cases increased their hours.

### **Kimball Public (Randolph)**

#### Successes

- The summer reading program was amazing! We circulated 43% more items from the youth collection in the summer of 2018 than the previous year, and had incredible attendance for events, including more than 90 people for Drag Queen Story Hour! Our strategic plan was informed by the Randolph Region Re-Energized community visioning process - thank you, Vermont Council on Rural Development! - and accelerated by a surprise donation of nearly \$200,000.

#### What's New

- One-on-one technology drop-in time is extremely well-used and -loved.

### **Latham Memorial (Thetford)**

#### Successes

- Volunteers continued to open the library on Sundays from 10-1 from October through April.

#### What's New

- Once each month the library has offered an Unplugged Game Night with Pizza that draws a devoted group of families interested in Dungeons and Dragons, checkers and other board games.

### **Lincoln**

#### Successes

- Slowly, but surely, we are increasing our volunteer staff engagement, and increasing our circulation.
- We had two successful VHC evening programs, a successful summer reading program, and now we are mobilizing for an active yearlong celebration of our twentieth year in our new building.
- Our story time continues to be one of our most popular weekly programs drawing people locally and from surrounding towns.

#### What's New

- We upgraded all 4 of our administrative computers, and plan to upgrade the public use computers in time to help folks with the census.

### **Lydia Taft Pratt (Dummerston)**

#### Successes

- The total number of active library users listed in LibraryWorld, the library management system in use at Lydia Taft Pratt Library, is 283, which represents an 83% increase over that number in the last annual report, which was 152.

#### What's New

- Lydia Taft Pratt has installed and maintained two Little Free Libraries as auxiliary sites for the community to interact with our organization. In September 2018, the first LFL was installed on the side of the Dummerston Town Hall where it is centrally located and protected from snow plows, inclement weather and other hazards. The second LFL was installed at the Dummerston Elementary School.

### **Maclure (Pittsford)**

#### Successes

- Maclure Library now has 28 people in the book club.

#### What's New

- Maclure Library in Pittsford is sister libraries with Brandon Free Library in Brandon. Patrons of one are now patrons of both, no charge.

### **Manchester Community Library**

#### Successes

- The Library hired a new Executive Director and Director of Advancement. In addition, an internal candidate was promoted to the role of Director of Patron Experience.

#### What's New

- We completed our first external audit, bringing even greater transparency to our efforts to serve the public. We are looking to build even stronger relationships with our community partners, both inside and outside the Manchester area, such that our efforts to reach residents and visitors are in greater alignment.

### **Martha Canfield Memorial (Arlington)**

#### Successes

- Our exhibit about Norman Rockwell and the Arlington Artists was accepted for display at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. We expanded the exhibit a bit and the display was open August through January. We also arranged for middle school classes to have a field trip to see the exhibit as part of their local history unit. The curator of our historical collection gave some talks to the classes prior to their trip and then the teachers took the students on a walking tour of the main street of Arlington to see how it has changed over the years.

#### What's New

- This year, at the request of a student, we started a young writers group for students in grades 4-8. A former librarian and writer volunteers to lead the group and teaches them about plot, character development, writing dialogue and much more. We are planning to have a copy of the finished products catalogued for the collection.

### **Mary L. Blood Memorial (West Windsor)**

#### Successes

- Robust summer reading response from a small town, enthusiastic July 4th participation, and a broad effort to weed and bring the collection up to date.

#### What's New

- New hours, including evening hours, and new users.

### **Middletown Springs Public**

#### Successes

- Our Toddler Time program continues to fill a vital need in the community now that a county organization no longer offers a playgroup at the school. Our Friends group has increased their focus on programming. They dream up and sponsor more events in the library to everyone's delight.

#### What's New

- This year at the Memorial Day parade library volunteers handed out books to children along the parade route (in lieu of candy). We culled nice paperbacks from the book sale donations. Volunteers held out several at a time and gave kids a chance to quickly choose that which

appealed. We ran out of books 2/3 of the parade. Maybe this year we will have our summer program flyer/bookmark ready and can put one in each book.

### **Milton Public**

#### Successes

1. Milton Public Library is one of the two most commonly used facilities in Milton, according to the Milton Recreation Master Plan 2019 survey. The other is Bombardier Park fields and facilities.
2. WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING:
  - a. Although I am in Florida for the winter, I saw Director Susan Larson's Book Bits column titled "Am I a Racist" in the Milton Independent. I ... completed reading it a couple days ago. I thank Susan for taking the time, via Book Bits, to help folks like myself grow. -Rick B.
  - b. I'm a recent transplant from Winooski to Milton. Some friends have passed on to me that you/the library is considering an LGBTQ display for Pride Month this June. This is something I'd really like to see. Not only do I think many in the community would enjoy it, I also think it would help to show we are a loving and welcoming community to all. Thanks for starting the discussion. -Cindy M.
  - c. I am a long time resident of Milton and frequent user of the Milton Library. I am very pleased with all the services I have used, i.e. tech help, research assistance, and workshops. It's an inviting place to spend a few hours reading and socializing with my neighbors. The library is an outstanding asset in this small community. -Margaret M.

#### What's New

- We launched a Twitter account @MiltonLibraryVt and an Instagram page @miltonlibraryvt
- What's New
- We added a daytime adult book discussion group, which director Susan Larson leads from 2 - 3 p.m. the second Thursday of each month. Attendance has been steady at about 7 to 10 people each meeting.

### **Moore Free (Newfane)**

#### Successes

- We hosted a very successful series called "Death Comes to Newfane", co-sponsored by Brattleboro Area Hospice, which brought 20 speakers/films/discussions about death and dying to the library. We also started a series on the "Nuts & Bolts of State and Local Government" (which continues into FY20), which has brought distinguished statehouse and local speakers to discuss how the political system in the state and town operates.

#### What's New

- We have been undergoing a major re-organization and re-cataloging of our circulating materials. We've arranged children's books by topic (rather than author), and have put all adult fiction (and most adult non-fiction) on the ground floor. While we have discarded about 2,000 books, our circulation has increased by about 2,000 items (the books are easier to see and find).

### **Moretown Memorial**

#### Successes

- We were able to embark upon a successful community engagement project in our community, asking participants what they loved about our town, what challenges they saw and how we might overcome those challenges. It provided valuable information about the community's needs and how the library might help meet them.

#### What's New

- This year, we were able to move into our historic Town Hall for the winter. Not only did that provide much needed indoor plumbing, safe parking and program space, it provided residents access to a beautiful and historic space to gather and connect in the winter months.

#### **Morrill Mem. & Harris (Strafford)**

##### Successes

- Our children's after school and summer reading programs continue to be popular with our community's families, attracting good attendance while providing engaging programs.
- We had two well attended programs for adults, one in which a long-time community member, Melvin Coburn, owner of the local general store, told stories about growing up in the town. In the fall we hosted an engaging evening with Professor Paul Searls, about the ideas behind his book, "Repeopling Vermont: The Paradox of Development in the Twentieth Century.
- Our Friends of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library continued to host incredibly successful fundraising events for us, as well as hosting an evening with Sydney Lea following the release of "Here" his newest book of poetry.

#### What's New

- We have several things to report. We hired a new Children's Programming Coordinator, Sarah Rogers, to run our children's after school and summer reading programs; we added Kanopy to our collection offerings (and it is being well received by the community); and, we have a new septic system. Our original system failed in May 2019, but with significant unsolicited financial support from our community, we were fortunate to have help funding this unexpected capital improvement.

#### **Morristown Centennial**

##### Successes

- We have completed an ongoing audit and replacement of our IT system and computer equipment with a great new, local IT consulting company. With the help of the board of trustees, we now have "mobile" bookshelves in our largest gathering space, the Martha Wigner Upton Reading Room, so that we can expand our seating capacity for larger-scale events, including Katherine Paterson's June 2019 visit to MCL.
- Our weekly Preschool Story Times and monthly Bring Your Own Book discussions continue to be well-attended.
- The Teen Advisory Board has become more involved in planning events, and now partners with the Friends of the Morristown Centennial Library to co-coordinate the library's site event for the townwide Festival of Lights. The Friends also coordinated our annual Be A Love Valentine Drive in which valentines made at the library by the public are delivered to local seniors, and the Friends began Little Libraries at several area businesses and agencies.
- We have had record attendance at some new Adult and Youth Services events with Vermont performers. In cooperation with Stowe Free and Lanpher libraries, we partnered in hosting county-wide viewings of the movie The Public and panel discussions with the local shelter coordinators. Our event was well-attended. With a grant from the Friends of MCL, we were able to purchase six ukuleles and Rachel Funk, our Youth Services librarian, taught the instrument to a group of 8-11 year-old-students, which culminated in a standing-room-only concert this past fall.

#### What's New

- After a successful first session last fall, Rachel Funk, Youth Services librarian, with the grant support of the Friends of the Morristown Centennial Library, is offering monthly Ukulele Jam Sessions and is organizing more six-week sessions of lessons for teens, students ages 8-11, and adults. Each session will culminate in a concert.
- In Adult Services, in partnership with Lamoille County legislators we are offering monthly Current Events Cafes, in which elected officials and community members meet over light refreshments to talk about and listen to what's on their minds. Good attendance thus far.
- Over the past year, we have experimented with the lending of nontraditional items: puzzles, simple visual assistive devices and, through a RiseVT grant and in cooperation with Morrisville Parks and Recreation, we are in our second season of offering snowshoes.

### **New Haven Community**

#### Successes

- The Trustees and I spent a great deal of time putting together a general presentation about the library to the Select board. It's reception was not entirely what we had envisioned, (although generally appreciated) yet it still felt very positive to initiate the meeting - a first for the Trustees and Selectboard.

#### What's New

- Kanopy is new this year! The library connected movie streaming service has been extremely popular. Patrons are loving the availability of so many independent and foreign films and the wonderful array of documentaries.

### **Norman Williams Public (Woodstock)**

#### Successes

- The Norman Williams Public Library continues to provide a wide array of successful and popular programs for our patrons. All programs are offered free of charge. Both the number of programs offered and the number of patrons in attendance exceeded the numbers from prior years. The library is greatly appreciative of the members of our talented and generous community for freely sharing their knowledge and expertise in a variety of interesting offerings.
- This past year our aging heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system failed. Though our Board of Trustees had been setting aside funds for just such an emergency, these funds were not sufficient for replacement of the system. The library conducted a successful capital campaign to raise the remainder of the necessary funds. The community response was incredible and the funds were raised in a far shorter time than anticipated. Work on the project has begun and will be completed by spring.
- The Norman Williams Public Library Ex Libris Gala was a major success with speaker Richard Blanco. Mr. Blanco spoke eloquently and with great passion about his life and his poetry. The Gala is the library's largest fundraiser of the year and this event was both financially and intellectually exceptional.
- The library continues to offer gallery space for local artists to display their works on a monthly basis. We thank our Art Committee for their efforts in choosing artists and curating our art shows, which are booked more than 1 year ahead.
- The library staff successfully created a more user-friendly biography section. This change has been very positively received by our patrons. Biographies had been inter-shelved with other titles prior to this effort.

#### What's New

- The Art committee successfully renovated the gallery space in our mezzanine to better highlight the works of our local artists.
- The library is installing an energy efficient HVAC system that will keep our patrons comfortable year-round and consume significantly less energy than the former system.
- The library will begin receiving solar energy credits provided by generous donors to offset a large portion of our energy consumption. We look forward to a much smaller carbon footprint as well as a significant savings on our energy bills.

### **North Hero Public**

#### Successes

- We had huge success with our Reading and Discussion Series. Biggest attendances yet. We also had great events collaborating with our Historical Society. Branched out into the world of Instagram-daunting, but fun and worthwhile.

#### What's New

- The library now has an Instagram page. Hard to get used to at first, but people seem to be reacting positively with it.

### **Norwich Public**

#### Successes

- We collaborated with Local Motion, Vital Communities and the Norwich Energy Committee to loan e-Bikes during the month of August. This proved to be a very successful collaboration!

#### What's New

- In October 2018 we opened our newly designed backyard garden space. This area, framed by a beautiful pergola, has become another (albeit outside) room at the library. Events have included an ice cream social, plein air painting classes, a hard cider tasting, e-bike demonstrations, and impromptu picnics. It's a popular space for reading, playing guitar, doing cartwheels and just enjoying the garden and bubbling fountain.

### **Orwell Free Library**

#### Successes

- In 2018, the Orwell Free Library began and completed a renovation project. Three rooms in our space received attention and new flooring was added throughout most of the library. We removed metal shelving that dominated our main room and replaced it with locally built wall shelving and moveable floor shelves. The space received a fresh coat of paint and our bay window was finally allowed to light the room in the morning hours. In our juvenile room, we removed the 40-year-old wallpaper and put up a fresh coat of paint. The wall space in that room doubles as our gallery. The local art group appreciates the clean walls for their exhibits.
- Lastly, our Vermont Room received new wallpaper and locally built shelves that match the shelving throughout the library. We added comfortable leather chairs, a rug, and window shades to warm the space.
- The renovation provides significant amounts of floor space for programs and events and gives the space an open and welcoming feel.

#### What's New

- Orwell Free Library can now host more popular programs and workshops after completing a renovation that opened up our main room and freshened up the rest of the space. We

comfortably sat 62 people at a lecture since the updates, 25 more attendees than previously able.

- We started a Teen Advisory Group in late 2017 that took off with a bang this year.

## **Pawlet Public**

### Successes

- In May 2019, the Library finalized its Strategic Plan 2020-2024 following 15 months of development under the guidance of a nationally recognized library consultant. The community engagement process included interviews with 13 Town and community groups and several individuals to create a plan that is rooted in the needs and aspirations of the community, while developing relationships through partnerships and collaboration. From this process, the Library established three priorities to guide its decisions about programming, funding, staffing and facility needs:
  - provide a place for people to gather for social activities and community discussions;
  - offer programs and activities that bring people together and bridge community divisions;
  - and, facilitate Town and community organizations in working together and sharing information and resources with each other and the community.

### What's New

- Implementing the plan has already begun. We offered monthly programs that brought community members of all ages together for potluck dinners, panel discussions with farmers and newcomers, a square dance, a block party and concert by the Washington County Band, a children's Halloween Parade, a Holiday Tea, and a Vermont-life skill share program series. We sought and received funding for a Library Community Connector position, two days per week, to help Town and community organizations work together.

## **Peacham**

### Successes

- These answers reflect activities during the reporting period of this report - July 2018 - June 2019. We included the whole Elementary School as a part of our Summer reading Kick Off by hosting an all school assembly with Modern Times Theater to introduce the theme "A Universe of Stories". We successfully continued partnerships with other community organizations including "Aging Well in Peacham", Winter Carnival, Fall Foliage Day and Peacham Historical Association. We held a Summer Series on Storytelling that included guests like Erica Heilman, Jay Craven and Bess O'Brien. We held a Winter Coffeehouse series with 3 sessions of music and one of poetry. Our gallery hosted 6 wonderful exhibitions including one that invited community members to contribute selfies with their favorite tree. We celebrated "Take Your Child to the Library Day" with a scavenger hunt and five different maker challenge stations. The Pre-K and K classes came to the library and we read a cult favorite "Potato Pants" by Laurie Keller.

### What's New

- These answers reflect activities during the reporting period of this report - July 2018 - June 2019. Story Time on Fridays had poor attendance, so I did an "encore" on Saturday, eventually changing to Saturday-only which improved attendance. We included a Spanish Story Time one month. We also hosted a couple of movie and craft afternoons for school age children on early release days. We have a Tour de France rider who moved to town and organized a Fun Fondo bicycle ride. The library contributed by hosting a Pi(e) Stop, feeding the riders pie at the halfway point and selling pie to spectators. This was a huge hit! Our Tai Chi class expanded and started offering a beginner session, as well as advanced. Programs offered included Genealogy, Button

Up Vermont weatherization, wet felting, Frederick Douglass, Emerald Ash Borer, chocolate making, Death Cafe and a few patron developed programs like a discussion of an Atlantic Magazine article and a garden and gardening program, and a homeschool roundtable.

### **Pettee Memorial (Wilmington)**

#### Successes

- One of our most celebrated new programs was a "DCF Lunch Bunch" program. One day a week during the summer, the youth librarian provided lunch and a group of kids came together to read and discuss some of the DCF books. She also provided related activities. Most of the children had finished 3 or 4 DCF books by the end of the summer. Also, all of the students that signed up were boys, which we had had a hard time attracting to the library!

#### What's New

- We finalized a renovation plan for the library and started fundraising to start the project.

### **Pierson (Shelburne)**

#### Successes

- We successfully moved into our temporary facility, and prepared to move back into our newly built library (not completed during this statistical year)

#### What's New

- Everything facility-wise will be new!

### **Platt Memorial (Shoreham)**

#### Successes

- We held a "Caregivers Conference" to talk about early literacy and sharing books with preschool/toddler-aged children with local childcare providers and 1 local librarian. It was a lot of fun and we were able to provide continuing education credits with Northern Lights.
- We also had our second Keynote Speakers Series in partnership with the Orwell Free Library. With combined advertising and a coordinated program offering, this was a nice way for 2 small libraries to offer a whole year's worth of high quality adult programming (mostly from the Vermont Humanities Council).

#### What's New

- Platt Memorial We received a "Revisiting the Founding Era" Grant from the Gilder Lehrman foundation and ALA. We held the first introductory program of that series.

### **Pope Memorial (Danville)**

#### Successes

- We continue to have a dedicated story hour attendance. Our patrons are very happy with our collection in all areas. For the most part we are able to buy or request whatever our patrons ask for. The courier system has worked out very well for us.

#### What's New

- We look forward to the completion of Phase II of our community center. It is still being used by many community groups for classes, parties, meetings, etc. We're pleased that we can provide this great space.

### **Poultney Public**

#### Successes

- We have gotten our website back up and running. We have become more intentional in our programming, with positive results. We have greatly increased our collection of non-traditional materials to loan, and it has been a very popular addition to our collection.

#### What's New

- In the middle of the fiscal year reported here we switched our automation from Mandarin to Apollo. It was long overdue and has been a fantastic change. Staff tasks are much easier in Apollo! It also allows patrons more access to their accounts from home, and a much better online catalog interface.

#### Quechee

##### Successes

- We once again created a new book discussion series to originate here and then travel throughout the state through the Vermont Humanities Council. This year's series was "Gilded Age: Then and Now." We also saw an increased use of the YA and Graphic Novel circulation which led us to fund raise for new graphic novel shelving. Participation in #Rooted in Vermont was a popular success, partnering with Linked Lands Alliance among others. We also increased support for people to become familiar with downloading digital collections.

#### What's New

- We added Kanopy, additional non-traditional loan items, an additional regular book discussion series (historical fiction) and formed a technology committee in part to work on moving to the cloud for many functions and to replace our local server. In addition the committee can provide in-house technology support.

#### R.K. Kittay Public (Rupert)

##### Successes

- In 2018:
  - Our Art Shows continued every two months. A particularly interesting one was done by Robert Birbeck, a local sculptor, who decided to take a break and began reading. The result was a series of sketches titled "The 20 Most Influential Women Authors of all time." The books of these authors were displayed with the sketches so that patrons could have easy access to them.
  - One of our Programs this year was called "Library Spirits." A visitor, who is a clairvoyant, stopped in one day and sensed spirits in the building that is a former schoolhouse. She returned several times to do research and offered a program about her findings. She felt that there were several happy children running around and playing games. This program brought out a record number of people in the audience. Plans are in the works to do more research at neighboring historic buildings and have another program about the findings.
  - A program was offered to make Felt Bookmarks. It was well received.
  - A display to acknowledge the 20th Anniversary of the Harry Potter Books was set up for most of the year. Part of the display was all of the Harry Potter Books to encourage any patrons to read or reread them.

#### What's New

- In 2018:
  - For the first time, our Library offered a \$250.00 scholarship to a High School graduating senior to be used toward further schooling.

- We reorganized our Adult DVD collection and created a separate area for PBS, Acorn etc. and Classics so that patrons who enjoy these movies and series can find them more easily than grouping them with the general DVD collection.

### **Readsboro Community**

#### Successes

- Increase in community members visiting the library for programs, museum passes, and as a source of information. Programs well attended.

#### What's New

- More volunteer help due to the outreach that I have been doing in the community. That means more support on programs, projects and ideas.

### **Richmond Free**

#### Successes

- We continue to have a strong collaboration with the area community senior center and provide the venue and support of many of their weekly programs. Any program that is offered in the library MUST be available to any age. We help publicize their special events via our news outlets and social media. Playaways are growing in popularity among adults.

#### What's New

- We've launched a middle school book club (FY 2019-20) with fabulous results.

### **Rochester Public**

#### Successes

- We had a tremendous public response to the number and variety of programs at the library.

#### What's New

- We are offering Kanopy now.

### **Rockingham Free Public**

#### Successes

- The Library continued to work closely with individuals and organizations, including the WNESU school district, Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP}, and the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission, to create a wide variety of programs.

#### What's New

- We signed up with Novus Rockingham Solar System, which began generating power in December 2018, for which we received credits on the Green Mountain Power (GMP) electric bill, for the solar energy generated.

### **Roxbury Free**

#### Successes

- We were able to use some fundraised money to renovate a small storage entryway into a functional and inviting reading nook for children. We have claimed that the project has been the "smallest renovation in Roxbury, but with the biggest impact". The reading area was dedicated to a long-time RFL volunteer and trustee (Betsy Eckfeldt).

#### What's New

- We are implementing two initiatives to connect our community.
- The first is a project to connect and share books that individual community members own in their personal collection. We are calling it the Roxbury Branches project. With the idea being

that individual community members' collections can serve as "branch library locations" to our library. The second is to grow our realia collection with the cojoined effort of connecting willing community members who are willing to share their own specialized tools and equipment in addition to what we own in the library.

### **Royalton Memorial**

#### Successes

- Our weekly Story Time program continues to draw new attendees. Our town celebrated its 250th birthday. In recognition of that milestone, we challenged our summer readers to read (accumulative) 250 books within the time period of mid June to August 17th, the day of the birthday celebration. Our readers read close to 300 books! Our summer readers also had an opportunity to contribute to a "group" book which will be published and each participant will receive their own book, thanks to a generous donation from a local author.

#### What's New

- Completion of the Historic Preservation, Expansion & Accessibility project, including an elevator and handicap accessible rest rooms.

### **Russell Memorial (Monkton)**

#### Successes

- This year the Russell Memorial Library merged our trade paperbacks into the hardcover fiction in order to make space for new collections: The Dorothy Rankin Memorial Cookbook Collection, board games, fiber art books, and a fledgling poetry collection. In addition to that massive shift we made progress on labelling spine labels for books in our smaller sections for ease of reshelving, ordered a newer, more efficient printer, and consulted with architects working with the town to construct a new Community Center. While the bond has not yet been voted on, we hope that our design this year will be sufficient to meet the demands of the public.

#### What's New

- RML has begun a capital campaign to raise money for a new building. We hope that it can be in the Community Center up the road, but if the bond does not pass, we will continue to campaign for future expansion beyond our current 600 square feet (preferably also with luxuries such as drinkable water, a fully ADA compliant building, and parking).

### **Rutland Free**

#### Successes

- We hosted Google for a one-day event and had moon rocks from NASA on display during the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing. We partnered with the local schools and BROCC-Community Action to provide school lunches year-round. We upgraded the A/V system in the Fox Room with the support of Friends of Rutland Free Library and Rutland South Rotary Club and set new attendance records for programming.

#### What's New

- We added Acorn TV and users streamed over 3,000 programs. We added hugely successful yoga and community-hosted swing dancing, and started outreach to the local schools through our new Teen Services librarian. Our online borrowing surpassed 8 percent in FY 2019, up from 6 percent the year before.

### **Salisbury Free Public**

#### Successes

- We have seen great increases in most of our numbers and usage. Library visits were up 53% and digital checkouts were up 42%! We attract large turnouts for our programs and have had many varied events throughout the year. The space is also actively used by numerous groups for meetings. We also are growing and strengthening our relationships with many organizations and partnering on many events.

#### What's New

- We resurrected our seed library and added snowshoes (through the RiseVT grant) for checkout. We partnered with the VT State Parks for programming as well as the Salisbury Conservation Commission.

### **Sheldon Public**

#### Successes

- This past year we had success offering art programs that filled our programming room, including our monthly adult Paint & Tea and children's instructor-led Paint & Juice classes. We also had success offering our first afterschool program in several years, which was a Breakout-Edu program for middle schoolers. Holiday programming was also successful with good turn-outs for storybook pumpkin decorating, trick-or-treat at the library on Halloween, gingerbread house decorating, and our annual holiday celebration.

#### What's New

- Thanks to a grant from RiseVT we have recently added five yoga story kits to our collection for families and professionals to check out. We are also looking at changing up our regular programming to add more afterschool programming, start a family craft night, and try starting a Youth Advisory Board.

### **Sherburne Memorial (Killington)**

#### Successes

- The Vermont Viking Invasion brought in close to 1000 people for the 3 day event and we were recognized nationally for doing the Vermont Fairy Tale Festival as a Celebration of Vermont's Public Libraries.

#### What's New

- Switching from Mandarin ILS to Insignia was the best decision we made all year. Everything is streamlined from cataloging to check out and patrons are now receiving overdues by email.

### **Shrewsbury**

#### Successes

- We still do not have a Children's Librarian but have started a Family Fun Night each month. These include our very popular Library Halloween Party, Ice Cream Social, STEM Nights, a Primitive Living day with Adladl competitions, and Movie Nights. Our Haystack Dinner/Street Dance remains very popular along with the Silent Auction/Cookie Share Holiday Celebration. We also have a Book/Bake/Tag Sale in September each year and are very happy to coordinate with our landfill to send our discards to Discover Books.
- We consider our library to be the center of cultural and informational activities in this community with more organizations requesting to use our meeting room and facilities.

#### What's New

- We have 3 new trustees on our Library Board of Trustees, adding some new perspectives to the energy we create. We have added a new Knitting Club to our list of library sponsored community activities. Our Library Quilter's Club created a new quilt to be raffled this year

adding to our fundraising efforts. Because we are an all-volunteer organization, we raise all our funds with fundraising events along with donations and a local tax generated base. We are very fortunate to have wonderful volunteers and community support.

### **Solomon Wright Public (Pownal)**

#### Successes

- In 2019, the Solomon Wright Public Library's Board of Directors lead a campaign asking the residents of Pownal, VT for an additional allocation of \$15,000 to hire its first paid employee. At the 2019 town meeting the town voted to pass the article, allowing the library to hire a new part-time director in October 2019.

#### What's New

- Thanks to a number of generous donations by Pownal residents, the Solomon Wright Public Library will be undergoing a major renovation in 2020. The library is grateful to the members of its ad hoc renovation committee for their tireless effort to make this much-needed upgrade possible.

### **South Burlington**

#### Successes

- Our greatest success was the affirmative vote to proceed with the new Library + City Hall + Senior Center, with support from 73% of the voters.

#### What's New

- Hired Eternity to design a new web page for the Library which went live in FY18. Dedicated staff maintain it to a high standard so that it accurately represents all Library resources for residents.

### **South Londonderry Free**

#### Successes

- Monthly book group meetings at the library have been successful with an average of 15 people attending.
- Violin and fiddle lessons during the summer were fun and brought new kids and adults into the library.

#### What's New

- Through grants our library was able to purchase a state-of-the-art AWE computer for preschoolers through pre-teens.
- For the convenience of our patrons we are now open straight through on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 5 pm.

### **Springfield Town**

#### Successes

- Renovations to the children's room have been completed thanks to the Promise Community Grant funding (Race to the Top). A family room has been constructed allowing social service agencies to conduct family visits, business owners and others to view webinars, and our young adults to use the room for gaming.

#### What's New

- Springfield Town Library instituted online access to World Book. Wifi signal was improved. Half of the building lighting was upgraded to LED.

### **St. Johnsbury Athenaeum**

### Successes

- The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum is very proud of the fact that the Annual Fund goal was exceeded. We achieved through the generous giving of our community and friends 80% of our operating budget.

### What's New

- This year we added several new programs and services: ABLE Library rotating collection, Lapsit storytime for parents with infants, and a Seed Library available to the community.

## **Stamford Community**

### Successes

- We have significantly increased the amount of programs we offer and have updated our collection tremendously.

## **Starksboro Public**

### Successes

- A patron donated a soft rug in great condition and we put it out at the baby brunch - people would rather sit on the floor! Success!
- We are successfully serving residents of an area group home. While these interactions may differ from a "standard" library interaction, we are confident that we serve as an important part of the residents' community.

### What's New

- We bought four used maple display units from another small library. These units have face out display capability on one side and either shelving or storage for odd items (chocolate molds, drug return envelopes, etc) on the other side. The units are on wheels and move easily to convert display place to program space.
- We deliver free books to the monthly senior lunch served across the street at the Baptist church. (books are weeded titles and donated books that we cannot sell).

## **Stowe Free**

### Successes

- In Fiscal Year 2019, the Library's biggest success came about because of its biggest tragedy. On December 10, 2018, the Library building's fire sprinkler system located in the attic failed - resulting in the flooding of 2 floors and the basement. The building sustained catastrophic damage and the Library lost 15,500 catalogued materials from its adult collection.
- When the building was shut down to the public for safety reasons and reconstruction, the library director and staff set up a small satellite library in the town administration building, an office in the public safety building, and a program space in the parks and recreation facility. This required the orchestrated efforts of staff to move and organize boxes of materials, technological equipment, and furniture including bookshelves to the temporary "library" spaces.
- Within a few weeks, the Library was able to resume services to the community, which included circulation of items, computer access, ILL services, and programming. Patrons and volunteers alike expressed their gratitude for the continued services, staff members engaged with town employees they had not previously known, and the Town administrators became more aware of the public's need for library services.
- The insurance company provided funds for the reconstruction but only a percentage of the value of materials lost. Financial support was pledged by the Library Board and the Friends of

the Library to fill the monetary gap, and many community members provided generous financial and emotional support.

- Since the disaster, the Library building has been expertly and beautifully renovated. The adult collection is being rebuilt with more than 4000 items added to the catalogue to date.
- The success of FY19 was due to the resilience and generosity of so many. A devastating blow brought about community engagement on an entirely different level. It was a traumatic, humbling, and subsequently rewarding experience.

#### What's New

- Due to the disaster at the Library in FY19, all efforts were made to restore the building and collection and to continue services as best as possible. A restored building and a growing adult collection is what is "new" to the Library.

### **Swanton Public**

#### Successes

- We've spent a lot of time making behind-the-scenes infrastructural improvements - better staff software, updated policies, replaced aging lighting - which, in turn, has allowed us to be more helpful to patrons. It sounds boring, but it's actually quite exciting!

#### What's New

- We purchased a community calendar called LocalHop which, while managed by the library, allows community groups to all post to the same place. We're hoping we can more helpfully let people in the area know about programs and events.

### **Tenney Memorial (Newbury)**

#### Successes

- Renovations to our building which made it more welcoming to people. We even leveled, added drainage and black topped our parking lot. (It is no longer a mud hole every time it rains.) The Trustees put a bit more money into the program budget. More local groups are looking to the library in which to hold meetings and programs.

#### What's New

- Thanks to a memorial fund we are adding more audio books and more large print books. Both had been requested, but now we have the money to better meet the needs of our patrons.

### **Townshend Public**

#### Successes

- I have worked to have more classes visit from the local elementary school. The teachers have appreciated my encouraging this. We have also worked at culling our patron records so that they are more accurate and reflect current patrons.

### **Vernon Free**

#### Successes

- We were able to get our budget increased \$16,468 after drastic cuts by the Select Board the previous year. Therefore, we were able to increase the library assistant hours so that we have 2 library assistants job sharing a 20 hour per week position.
- We were also able to complete our Capital Project in the children's area. We purchased book bins for the picture books making them more visible and accessible for the children as well as the adults.

## **Wardsboro Free Public**

### Successes

- VELI-STEAM programs take place on Saturdays with the Children's Librarian
- Yearly museum trip, popular with families
- Knitting group-- donations of knitted items from the members turned into a fund raiser during our holiday event and Gilfeather Turnip Festival.
- Popular adult book club meets monthly and each month is a different genre
- We continue to purchase graphic novels for all ages for children as well as large print books for our Juniors.
- Our Children's Librarian as well as one of our trustees did a book reading during the town Christmas program
- Maintain relationships with principal and teachers--discussions about STEAM and visits to the library as well as possible grants. I also weeded the library collection at the school in prep for automation
- We have had several new artists of the month on display at the library, some have demonstrated their skills to our patrons during workshops
- The trustees continue to organize the Holiday Fair with Santa, craft booths and free books for every child. The children's Librarian assists children to make appropriate selections.
- The Summer Reading Program brought in children for a new program about constellations, some children have never been to the library in the past.

### What's New

- New open flag made by a volunteer
- Shelving for the librarian's office, better organized
- Trustee Chairperson retired and new trustee has volunteered
- Many new folks retiring to Wardsboro and getting library cards
- Adopt-A-Book program in December and January
- Previously children came from a class from the school and participated in the after-school STEAM programs. Plans have been made with the Principal to have Wardsboro Elementary School classrooms visit our library for STEAM programs in 2020
- ARSL grant-- added training and helped to expand ideas for programming
- The Friends of the library have raised enough money to replace the windows of the library in 2020

## **Warren Public**

### Successes

- We had two incredibly successful programs this year that attracted children and adults: Harry Potter Trivia Night and Drag Queen Story Hour. Harry Potter Trivia Night brought in fresh volunteers of all ages in the planning stages as well as the actual event. It truly felt like a community event. We hosted DQSH in November 2018 which attracted over 70 people of all ages. There were smiles all around as we all sang "If You're Happy and You Know It, Say YASSS QUEEN."
- We also started a Cookbook Club that continues to meet regularly and has been very well received.

### What's New

- In 2018 we offered an after school free play program for elementary age children on Fridays ("Free Play Friday"). A variety of activities is offered each week from movies to Lego to board

games and crafts. The program has grown and in 2020 we have expanded to two after school programs per week.

### **Waterbury Public**

#### Successes

- Increase in cross-pollination between adult and youth areas, particularly in programs
- Began working with a local artist as coordinator of the local art displays in our cafe area and upstairs gallery. Fabulous 6 week shows ongoing!
- Increased arts and crafts programs for adults
- Highlights of successful adult programs in 2018:
- Over 100 attended steel band concert
- A de-cluttering workshop was standing room only
- Offered popular and on-going yoga and Tai Chi classes
- Full house for VT Land Use History and its Impact on Wildlife program
- 2 great collaborations with VHC and VT Reads
- Well received and attended children's' programs:
  - Crankie Picture Shows created and performed by Meredith Holch
  - 2 part Cardboard Sculpture program for ages 8-11
  - Paper Mache Pumpkins
- Our small but very dedicated Friends group conducted another successful annual appeal, and was able to support many offerings at the Library.

#### What's New

- The former Director retired and a new director started in late August.
- In the last quarter of 2018, we added or implemented:
  - Telescope for lending
  - Genre spine labels in adult fiction
  - Book suggestion form at the front desk
  - Community bulletin board
  - Began increasing our audio on CD and DVD collections
  - Mobile phone headsets for staff offices
  - Updated budget spreadsheets
  - Increase in statistics collection areas
  - Amazon Smile donations for Friends' group

### **Weathersfield Proctor**

#### Successes

- Expansion of youth librarian community outreach.

### **Wells Village**

#### Successes

- Adult programming and the Summer Reading Program for children

#### What's New

- Unable to answer due to my being a new librarian and I was not present during this timeframe I am reporting on.

### **West Burke**

#### Successes

- The number of people reading our Facebook page has increased again. The number of books checked out over the winter (1028-1019) increased again

#### What's New

- Many donations, including religious and financial books.

### **Westford Public**

#### Successes

- The Westford Public Library continues to thrive as a community hub. We saw increases in circulation and patron visits, as well as program attendance. We had a HUGE increase in circulation of our digital collection and started using Overdrive Advantage as a result of that. Our Board of Trustees completed a five year long range plan and has been dedicated to working on several building improvement projects in FY20.

#### What's New

- Despite fewer programs this year, we had great attendance. Our programming is honing into the likes and timing of the community. We are adding new programs, like CookBook Club and a variety of after school offerings. We added to our "library of things" two Verilux HappyLights and several LEGO robotics kits. Our Fiber Arts group has become well established after a slow start. This group has also been a valuable source of volunteers.

### **Whiting (Chester)**

#### Successes

- In 2018 we re-arranged a community room space to create a LEGO maker-space thanks to a donation from Chester Rotary. This changed the LEGO club from a weekly program to a drop-in opportunity for children to create and keep their on-going works. The elementary school suffered flooding and electrical issues in September, and we were able to offer space for classes to meet until rooms became available.

#### What's New

- In 2019 we received a private donation to improve and expand our STEAM collection resulting in the addition of 75 books for all ages to inspire learning and creativity.
- Also in this year we received a grant from the Pilcrow Foundation of 95 children's books to celebrate overcoming challenges and embracing diversity.
- We now offer Medication Return envelopes and participate in an annual coat drive.

### **Whitingham Free Public**

#### Successes

- Partnering with other organizations such as EES, Senior Meals, other library's, schools, Rotary Club, Lion's Club, etc, has been a tremendous experience.

#### What's New

- We are preparing to start a Little Seed Library.

### **Windsor Public**

#### Successes

- We led a town-wide rock scavenger hunt that almost went viral in its popularity! As part of the Libraries Rock summer reading theme, we hid 75 rocks all around Windsor and tasked folks with finding all 75. It was extremely successful! We also had LEGO days, thanks to some donations by our patrons, where folks got to make and take LEGO creations. We visited Bethany Birches Camp and did yo-yo storytelling programs for the campers.

### What's New

- We now have a weekly Mahjong group! And had a Food for Thought non-fiction book discussion group, as well as a Book to Movie discussion group. We installed a new furnace and air conditioning unit as well!!!

### Winhall Memorial

#### Successes

- The library applied for and was chosen awarded the Children's Literacy Foundation's Rural Library grant to be applied during the 2019/2020 school year.
- The library was featured in the Winter 2019 Issue of Stratton Magazine.
- The library was the focus of a News Project segment for GNAT-TV.
- We have made progress in inventorying the collection, and moving toward automation.

### Winooski Memorial

#### Successes

- This year, we've continued to nurture relationships with our community partners. USCRI now hosts language classes in the library twice a week. Our Homework Help program has been re-branded to Academic & Career Support to make it more inclusive to all members of the community and not just students. The end of January wraps up our first successful "First Month" programs. With the Senior Center and Mill Museum, we developed programming around the theme of the Roaring 20's. It was well-received and planning for next year's events has begun.

#### What's New

- We're currently working on redesigning our space to accommodate additional public access machines, more program space and a larger youth area. It does mean our collection size is decreasing, but our people and opportunity space is increasing.

### Woodbury Community

#### Successes

- The library continues to deepen its relationship with the nearby elementary school. In June, local resident and turtle expert Kiley Briggs took the school kids on a turtle walk in the adjacent wetlands. The library provided a literacy and artistic component for this experience.

#### What's New

- The library's school partner — the Woodbury Elementary School — was forced by the Board of Education's Act 46 mandate to merge with two nearby elementary schools this year. As part of this process, ownership of the school and library was explored in depth. As the school's future is uncertain, the library began the process of examining its role in the community and how the library can best serve its community.

### Worthen (South Hero)

#### Successes

- This year we were in the process of building our new library. We had a lot books in storage in preparation for the move and less events towards the opening date of the library. A lot of staff energy was spent in preparation for the big move and making choices regarding the new building.

#### What's New

- This was our last year in our old facility inside of the Folsom School and Community Center. It was a wonderful partnership, but we are greatly looking forward to our new space.